

Connecticut Coalition of Advanced Practice Nurses

American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM), Region I, Chapter 2
Connecticut Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Society (CT APRNS)
Connecticut Association of Nurse Anesthetists (CANA)
Connecticut Nurses' Association (CNA)
Connecticut Society of Nurse Psychotherapists (CSNP)
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP), Connecticut Chapter
The Northwest Nurse Practitioner Group

March 16, 2009 COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH

SUPPORT of Raised Bill 6674, AAC WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVED ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE SERVICES.

Senator Harris, Representative Ritter, and Members of the Public Health Committee:

Thank you for raising House Bill 6674. My name is Geraldine Marrocco. I have been a nurse practitioner for over 20 years and established an independent practice 5 years ago in Fairfield.

The citizens of this state need better access to care, including services that can be provided by APRNs.

I am fortunate to "collaborate" with a physician who complements my philosophy of care, and I am appreciative of his attitude towards my practice. That being said, I have reservations that in the event he decided to retire, or move or close his practice for any reason, my legal ability to care for my patients would immediately stop. I would need to literally close up shop, abandon my patients and refer them to a hospital or clinic until another "collaborator" was established. That process could take considerable time. It is a cloud over anyone's head to know that the ability to serve my patients could be so disrupted for circumstances totally beyond my control.

Access to primary care providers is becoming a national issue. There is enough data available to substantiate the lack of primary care providers in this state. Removing barriers for APRNs will afford a greater opportunity to establish primary care sites which can offer comprehensive services to communities and neighborhoods in need.

Removing the mandate of collaboration will in effect remove a disincentive to practice. From my personal experience I can say clearly access to care is in a crisis. Financial constraints and overwhelming demands from a sick and aging population in Connecticut is overtaxing our current health care system. This crisis has been looming over this country for decades and ignored with little or no real changes to provide better access to care, especially for the poor.

As Senator Edward Kennedy said October 30, 1971: "We need to open new avenues which will enable dedicated health professionals..... to more effectively contribute to our efforts to make health care a right for all

Americans.... Inadequate care, poor quality care, or no care at all are circumstances which a free society will not tolerate. And if those who have become part of the problem refuse to contribute to its solution, then a solution will be found without them." Please help in being part of the solution and remove the statutory language for a collaborative agreement, thereby promoting improved opportunity for access to care.

Thank you,

Geraldine Marrocco, APRN
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